Miss Ireland an anti-slavery correspondent of mine whom I had never seen before — my acquaintance commenced with her in consequence of a report that she was about to publish a selection of Anti Slavery poems for schools selected from Whittier, Longfellow and so forth. I wrote to say that such a collection w'd fail of its intention if she omitted to include the writings of the abolitionists in among them from which she meant to select & I found her willing to be helped. I looked over the Liberty Bells and other A.S. books, & sent her a parcel of them to please her own taste with. I have also furnished her with some sketches of the writers that will be of use in making them more interesting if the book attains any popularity as I hope it may. I liked the lady very much. She is sensible, energetic, willing to learn — but like most of Maria Webbs pupils very ignorant of the history & bearings of the A.S. Question. I saw many other very interesting people in Belfast but I must stop this gossip — or I shall have no room left.

~~th~~ On my arrival here I found a letter from home enclosing one from Mrs Chapman. Will you be so good as to say I am a little vain that I have anticipated her wishes and ideas so very closely. In the reply I have prepared to Tappan's pamphlet I have not mentioned her name and only in one instance alluded to it so that it could be known by a reader of Tappan's. This allusion I have since withdrawn and now there is no risk that her name will be mixed up with them people as far as I can prevent it. I suspected she would probably [illegible] it & I also thought it might be better

part of letter)

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left out independently of her personal feeling about it. Furthermore I also anticipated her permission in freely appropriating the thunder I found in letters & papers of hers furnished me by the Editors. I have no desire to shine as an author — but I knew she would have no dislike to promote my object without publicly appearing in the battle. I thought that perpetual reference to others or a constant use of turned commas would weaken the effect of my effort — and I am sure Mrs Chapman has no objection to the idea of socialism in purely anti Slavery arguments and illustrations. Just before I left home 5 days ago I had been working very hard at my Reply and a hard job I found it to lick it into shape. Miss Webb was of great use in ruthlessly objecting to my tropes & figures & rigidly insisting on my keeping within the bounds of good taste — at least as far as I would agree to be led. I think to my credit I must say it was to a very great length. — The morning before I left town I got up at 4 and by steady application I left a proof of the whole 50 pages in rough proof with Miss Webb, who got it corrected & a copy sent to the Editors for examination & another to me in this place. Since I came I have given it another reading and it must go through another sore process of scrutiny when I gather the autocracy of 47, Park Street which, however I greatly fear will be too lenient — for they have a greatly exaggerated idea of my judgment & knowledge in such matters.

now I am at home — and I have not time to say much more, for I had a letter from Miss Estlin saying ~~th~~ ~~then~~ her father can forward a letter if I send it to-day — I will try and send you a copy of the pamphlet — a rather rough proof — but one which has gone through a great discipline of corrections & alterations. I sent a proof to Park Street and both father and daughter have had additions and amendments to suggest, nearly all which I have adopted.

Mrs Chapman will see both in the text and the extracts what free use I have made of her assistance & often without the least shadow of an acknowledgment appropriating phrases and turns of speech I could never have invented my self. I rely on her favourable & merciful interpretation as well as her express permission.

Will you tell Emma that yesterday I became the happy owner of that [illegible] book I heard her praise so highly that I feel almost as if I had a lock of her hair when I look at it. It is really very clever & I laughed so at some passages this blessed day that a steady child of mine thought me very foolish. It was by the merest chance I happened to meet with the book in a catalogue.

I don't know whether Miss Ellen has told you of her great work — an attempt to confute Dr Campbell & his Banner by publishing chosen scraps of their works in parallel columns with the counterstatements of honester people. I do not rely much on the power of truth apart from people's passions, interests & prejudices — but I mean nevertheless to do all in my power to assist her to the best of my ability. She [is] really wonderfully clever, industrious, and persevering, and it is something to know such a body.

I was greatly pleased by your long and most welcome letter — though I have said so little about it. I did not wonder that I did not hear from you since the Estlins who merit your letters so much more, heard but seldom. I attributed your silence to occupations about matters connected with the times — and I knew that when you could write you would not dismiss me from your notice because I am an Irishman — which like negro blood or Jewish descent is sometimes an effectual disqualification. My elder son whom you never saw wishes for a republican postage stamp — and another with the President's head on it — both clean and new for which I send you 4d in Queen's heads. He wants them by way of curiosities. How do Emma & Lizzy flourish under a despotism? Annie is I am sure attentive & contemplative — With kindest regards to you all — Yours ever truly March 28 Richard D Webb

I have had a letter from J. McKim promising an announcement & enlargement of [illegible], A.S. but they have not yet come to hand.

Orangehill Tanderagee. Co of Armagh

Part of letter

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